attending eye department is being encouraged with specific reference to posterior segment examination of the patients.

PHCs in Assam

804. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for setting up primary health centres in rural and hilly areas of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and

(c) the total fund allocated for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The setting up of Primary Health Centres comes under the purview of the State Government. The State Government decides the location as per their requirement. Keeping in view the shortfall of Primary Health Centres as per population norms vide 1991 population, the State had been advised to establish 107 Primary Health Centres during 9th Plan period, out of which 27 Primary Health Centres are to be set up during 2001-2002.

(c) Primary Health Centres are established and maintained and of funds provided to the State under Minimum Needs Programmes/Basic Minimum Services Programmes. In addition Additional Central Assistance under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana is being provided for strengthening Primary Health. Out of Rs. 20112.00 lakhs earmarked for PMGY to Assam for the year 2001-2002, a minimum of 10% would be allocated to Primary Health.

Right of breast-feeding

†805. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain multinational companies are trying to snatch away the right of breastfeedings;

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the number and names of such companies; and

(c) the action taken by Government to foil their attempt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) According to information furnished by the Department of Women and Child Development, there has been aggressive and effective media campaign by multinational companies manufacturing infant milk substitutes and infant foods to promote the introduction of infant foods at the age of four months. There were also moves to lower the age for introduction of complementary foods from 6 months to 4-6 months in the international fora like the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the World Health Organisation.

(c) Government of India has taken up the matter very strongly at both fora whereby the Codex Alimentarius Commission, an international body, the standards of which on food safety are the benchmarks under the WTO regime, have in 1999 referred the matter for further discussion in the Codex Committee, not accepting the age of 4-6 months for introduction of complementary foods.

The Government of India was also successful in getting the 54th World Health Assembly's Resolution passed in favour of exclusive breast-feeding for the first six months and introduction of home-based complementary foods thereafter with continued breast-feeding for two years and beyond.

New National Health Policy

806. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been actively considering to formulate a new National Health Policy;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the existing and previous health policies have failed to achieve the target in controlling population as well as to check the spread of deadly diseases;